Message Text

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P 100200Z JUN 78 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY AMEMBASSY BERLIN AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MILI, GE, GW, WB

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL CHARGES ABOUT NARCOTICS REACHING US FORCES

REF: A)USBERLIN 1305; B) BERLIN 3802; C) STATE 140603

1. THE SOURCE OF THE FIGURES ON THE QUANTITY OF HEROIN
BEING BROUGHT INTO THE WESTERN SECTORS OF BERLIN USED BY
CONGRESSMAN ENGLISH AND IN THE DEPARTMENT'S PRESS GUIDANCE
IS THE DEA INTELLIGENCE DIVISION. THE ACTUAL AMOUNTS ARE
ROUGH CALCULATIONS MADE BY DEA BASED ON THE NUMBER OF
ADDICTS IN THE WSB AS REPORTED BY THE BERLIN POLICE AND
THE BKA'S ESTIMATES OF THE AVERAGE DAILY CONSUMPTION OF
THOSE ADDICTS (DEA ACTUALLY USED HALF OF THE BKA ESTIMATE.)
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IT IS ADMITTEDLY A VERY ROUGH APPROXIMATION AND IS UNRELATED TO ANY EVIDENCE CONCERNING SOURCES OR ROUTES. THE DEA ESTIMATES WERE MADE PUBLIC BY CONGRESSMAN ENGLISH DURING THE PRESS CONFERENCE. COPIES OF THE CONGRESSMAN'S PREPARED STATEMENT AND A NYTIMES REPORT ON THE PRESS CONFERENCE ARE BEING POUCHED TO ALL ADDRESSEES.

2. CONCERNING THE CONGRESSMAN'S CHARGES THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS IMPEDED THE EFFORTS OF THE DEA IN BERLIN, THE DEA WAS NOT THE SOURCE OF THESE REMARKS AND HAS DENIED THAT SUCH A SITUATION EXISTS IN BERLIN. (FYI: APPARENTLY ENGLISH MADE THIS OFF-THE-CUFF REMARK ON THE BASIS OF AN

INCOMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THE BRIEFING THE COMMITTEE AND STAFF RECEIVED ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES IN EFFECTING USUAL CUSTOMS CONTROLS AT THE INTER-SECTOR BOUNDARY. WE HAVE GONE OVER THIS POINT WITH THE COMMITTEE'S STAFF AGAIN AND HOPE THAT WE HAVE REMOVED ANY MISAPPREHENSIONS ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT'S RECORD OF COOPERATION WITH THE DEA IN BERLIN.)

- 3. WE ARE PROVIDING THE COMMITTEE WITH INFORMATION CONCERNING NARCOTICS PROGRAMS IN BERLIN DRAWN FROM USBERLIN 341, BONN 6514, AND 77 USBERLIN 2791 AND WITH INFORMATION ON THE CONTACTS EMBASSY BERLIN HAS HAD WITH GDR OFFICIALS ON THE SUBJECT.
- 4. PRESS INTEREST HERE IN THE BERLIN ASPECTS OF THE STORY WAS NEVER GREAT AND NOW SEEMS TO HAVE TAPERED OFF COMPLETELY FOR THE TIME BEING. VANCE

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